Rev S. May Jr

Treasury Department.

Nov 11, 1862

Dear Sir

Your note of the 6th inst. duly reached me, and also the Report, for which many thanks. I am glad to hear that your mother is recovering from the accident of which I heard some time since. The barrel and also a box from Mr Henshaw, came to hand last week, and the contents proved most acceptable. They have been distributed by the two excellent matrons at the Contraband quarters. The additional barrel which you propose to send I shall be glad to take charge of on arrival, as you suggest.

Please forward it by railroad, as freight, (addressed simply R. Leighton, Washington D.C.) and send me R. Road receipt. This costs much less than by express, and the goods are not

very much longer in coming. The articles most especially needed at this time are warm bed clothing (no matter how much worn) Boy's clothing, socks for men & boys, and under garments for all. I might add a long list of other articles. Anything in the way of comfortable clothing for men women & children cannot come amiss. Any money placed in the hands of the matrons will be wisely and carefully expended for the pressing needs of the sick, of whom there are many.

I enclose a copy of a letter of mine from the Tribune, which will give you a good idea of the general condition of the people. The ~~dest~~ detestable Fugitive Slave law operates here, and a sad case came to my notice yesterday, by which a mother, father, and two grown children were separately caught by the Slave hunters under singular circumstances which I have not time now to relate, leaving three small children to the mercy of the charitable. They are lodged in jail here, but as they escaped from Maryland, unless their former master can be proved absolutely disloyal, there is little hope of their being restored to freedom, though no efforts will be spared by their friends. Yours truly R Leighton

Ms.B.1.6 v.9 p.50